

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



# The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

My team and I welcome you back from the holiday break and send our best wishes for a Happy New Year 2016!

In this January issue, we highlight the Division's **Office of Career Readiness**, directed by Marie Barry. Read about the important work this office is doing to support you in preparing students for college and career goals.

We also want to remind you to visit and register as a user at the new and improved **NJCORE (NJ Collaborative Online Resource Exchange)**! The site offers easier access to more teaching and learning resources (including what is posted in The Blast), as well as tools for educators, administrators and community members. Lessons, videos and other materials are being uploaded constantly, so be sure to check **NJCORE** and its Featured Content, Professional Learning, and Community Resources regularly.

This month, under "Professional Learning," you will find the new **Blended Online Learning Modules (BOLM)**, created through a partnership with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), using the Connected Action Roadmap developed by NJPSA/FEA. We are currently processing district applications for our Blended Online Learning Modules Pilot Program. While districts statewide will participate in the pilot, the modules are available now for free to individuals and PLCs for strengthening practice and focusing on student work as a means to higher achievement.

The winter season is upon us, and we are all wondering what weather is in store. No matter what comes our way—rain, sleet, ice, snow—we will be supporting you and your ongoing work guiding students through deeper exploration and understanding.

**Kimberley Harrington,**  
**Chief Academic Officer**  
**Division of Teaching and Learning**



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### Division's Office Highlight [\(top\)](#)

This month, The Blast highlights the **Office of Career Readiness** led by Marie Barry. The office provides leadership to advance innovative and performance-driven educational opportunities that promote equity and excellence for all students to become productive members in a global society. Staff provide guidance on implementing Standard Nine, 21st Century Life and Careers, which include the Career Ready Practices; personal financial literacy; career awareness, exploration and preparation; and career and technical education.

Office staff facilitate statewide implementation of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. They collaborate with the state workforce development system, higher education institutions, business and industry, and other state agencies, to create programs of study aligned to workforce needs and career pathways. They also approve all CTE secondary programs in the 16 Career Clusters® and administer Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funds to secondary and postsecondary grant recipients. Private career schools are also approved by staff in conjunction with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



The Standard Nine **Career Ready Practices (CRP)** are career-ready skills that educators in all content areas should develop in students, as they are linked to increased college, career, and life success. The CRP team delivers professional development on practices and classroom ready resources. To learn more, go to [www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2014/career/](http://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2014/career/).

**Career and Technical Education (CTE)** programs provide students in both high schools and county vocational schools with authentic learning experiences related to business and industry expectations. Students develop leadership skills, participate in work-based learning opportunities, and earn college credits and/or industry credentials as part of a career pathway to prepare for college and career.

The office has adopted the **National Career Clusters Framework** which provides structure for organizing and delivering quality CTE programs through learning and comprehensive programs of study

(POS). It includes 16 Career Clusters representing more than 79 Career Pathways. Staff offer model POS in the Career Clusters, such as Human Services, Transportation, Distribution and Logistics, and Arts, A/V Technology & Communication.

**Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)** are an integral part of career and technical education programs. CTSOs provide opportunities to enhance career, employability, and leadership skills through conferences, award programs and competitive events.



The **Career Equity Resource Center (CERC)**, another component of the Office of Career Readiness, works to increase recruitment, participation, and retention of special population students in CTE programs to prepare them for high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand jobs. CERC staff offer technical assistance and professional development to high schools and county colleges with CTE programs. For more details, visit [www.nj.gov/education/cte/cerc/](http://www.nj.gov/education/cte/cerc/).

The office also offers implementation tools for **Structured Learning Experiences (SLE)** which are experiential, supervised educational activities linked to NJ standards. The experiences provide students with exposure to requirements and responsibilities in specific career areas, as well as develop employment and decision-making skills. More information is available at [www.nj.gov/education/cte/sle/](http://www.nj.gov/education/cte/sle/).

In addition, the office has created grant opportunities to increase student participation in CTE. **The County Vocational School District Partnership Grant** is a state-funded partnership program between county vocational school districts, other school districts, county colleges, and other entities to expand CTE access and opportunities. **The Building Capacity for Career Pathways: A Pilot Program for Comprehensive High Schools Grant** is a state-funded program to expand Career Pathways for Grade 9-12 students in comprehensive and regional high school districts, and charter schools. The aim is to prepare students for high labor market demand occupations with family sustaining wages. Visit [www.nj.gov/education/grants/gropps.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/education/grants/gropps.shtml) to learn about these and other grant opportunities.

Discover more about the **Office of Career Readiness** and how they support you in preparing students for college and career at [www.state.nj.us/education/cte/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/cte/), or e-mail staff at [cte@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:cte@doe.state.nj.us).

**NJ Standards Review Update ([top](#))**

The Standards Review Committee will be presenting a final report to the NJ State Board of Education at the January 11<sup>th</sup> State Board Meeting.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/>

**NJCORE News ([top](#))**

The newly updated NJCORE is open for business! Register as a user, create an account, upload your favorite teaching resources, and add your ratings and comments to help NJCORE grow.

[www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org)

**Academic Standards****Resources for NJ Academic Standards**

Be sure to check [www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org) for these and other newly uploaded resources!

**ELA and Mathematics ([top](#)):****Integrating ELA and STEM in Forensics Lesson**

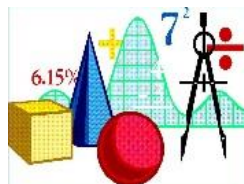
In this article, an eighth grade ELA teacher talks about incorporating STEM skills into her English curriculum with a “Crime Scene Investigator” lesson. She integrates hands-on problem solving, research, technology and writing tasks into a learning experience which transforms students into forensic scientists.

[http://languagemagazine.com/?page\\_id=124858](http://languagemagazine.com/?page_id=124858)

**Inside Mathematics poses Problems of the Month**

This website provides multiple tools for improving math instruction, including “Problems of the Month,” designed to challenge students at various ability levels, assessment strategies, and videos with shared feedback. Explore the site at the website below.

<http://www.insidemathematics.org/>

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) ([top](#))****NJDOE High School Science Model Curricula**

The model science curricula for high school chemistry, biology, and physics are now available at the NJDOE website below. K-5 course outlines and a limited number of K-5 units are also available. K-5 model science units will be posted by June 30, 2016.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/modelcurriculum/sci/>

**NASA Website for Educators and Students:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website offers opportunities for educators and students to engage in study, discussion and research on global climate change. Visit the website to see resources for January and beyond.

<http://climate.nasa.gov/resources/education/>

**Newsela presents new Science Text-Sets**

Newsela covers current events from around the world, in a student-friendly format for readers at five different levels. They offer “text sets” in social studies, literature and science. Go to the website below and click on “text sets” on the top of page to find the materials.

<https://www.newsela.com/>

**NGSS News, Videos, and Current Newsletter**

Look under “Latest News” on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website for the new video resources and the December 2015 NOW newsletter.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

**World Languages (top)****World Stories Project offers Global Tales**

The World Stories Project is sponsored by the KidsOut (UK) website. The collection of short stories includes new and retold traditional tales in many languages from around the world. The site provides free registration for educators to read, listen, and download the materials, which include story guides and other resources.

<http://www.kidsout.org.uk/world-stories-introduction/introduction>

**VAULTT for Language Teaching**

The Video Assistance for Understanding Language Teaching Techniques (VAULTT) is offered through the Center for Language Education and Research, at Michigan State University. The site provides a collection of original videos on language teaching in the classroom. Each video includes information explaining and relating techniques to best practices.

<http://vaultt.clear.msu.edu/>

**Bilingual/ESL Education (top)****NJDOE Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education**

Check the website below to see the current timeline for ACCESS 2.0 Administration Dates (2015-2016).

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/ells/timelines.htm>

**Education Connections for ELL Educators**

Education Connections offers standards-based instructional resources for educators working with English language learners, as well as venues for sharing best practices. Continue to check this site, presented by the Center for Applied Linguistics through the University of Oregon, for new resources.

<https://edconnect.obaverse.net/>

**Career & Technical Education (top)****NJ School will Create Hardware for NASA**

The Morris County School of Technology has partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through the HUNCH program. HUNCH (High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware) is an instructional partnership between NASA and educational institutions. NASA receives cost-effective hardware and soft-goods, while students receive real-world hands-on research experiences and produce flight hardware. For more information on HUNCH, go to the website below.

<https://www.nasahunch.com/>



PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR  
COLLEGE AND CAREERS (top)

**NJDOE Assessments Webpage**

Visit this NJDOE webpage for current news on all NJ statewide assessments, including PARCC.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>

**UnderstandTheScore.org by PARCC**

This PARCC website helps parents understand their child's score report and progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering skills.

<http://understandthescore.org/>

**PARCC's Partnership Resource Center**

At the PARCC Partnership Resource Center below, find scoring rubrics, as well as scored and annotated samples of students' work. The site also offers PARCC's new Test Builder tool to use the released items to build local assessments. To access NJ data, click the person icon on the top right and create a new account. On the new account page, enter the requested NJ code: NJ1787

<https://prc.parcconline.org/>

**FREE Professional Learning (top)****Science Workshops for 2016**

There is still space available in the upcoming regional professional development sessions scheduled for January 2016 and beyond. These sessions are designed to support teachers as they translate the model curriculum units into local curriculum. Teachers and administrators can select appropriate sessions at the website below.

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

**NJ Chamber Foundation Educator Workshops**

The NJ Chamber Foundation is offering free workshops for educators in 2016. The first session is scheduled for February 10. Find more information on the session and registration at the website below.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebx4n14nf8b7b814&llr=7gcjqzka>

**NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2016 Workshops**

The Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education, is offering professional development in the months ahead for district staff working with ELL students.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/AUG/25/13986/Bilingual.ESL%202015-16%20Professional%20Development.pdf>

**FREE Webinars and MOOCs****Free National Archives Webinar Series**

This January 5<sup>th</sup> NJDOE Broadcast memo from Kimberley Harrington announces the 2016 series of free National Archives Webinars on the use of primary sources. See the memo below for dates.

<https://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2016/JAN/05/14444/National%20Archives%20Webinar%20Series.pdf>

**Primary Source Webinars**

Primary Source is a nonprofit organization that works to advance global education in schools. On the website below, find free webinars and other resources to help educators “make global education an integral part of every student's classroom experience.”

<http://www.primarysource.org/for-teachers/free-online-seminars>

**Stanford Releases MOOCs Language**

Access to a variety of MOOCs on “Understanding Language” is offered free by Stanford University through 2016. Find courses at the website below.

<http://ell.stanford.edu/content/moocs>

**ASCD Webinars for January**

Check for archived and upcoming free webinars on the ASCD website below.

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>



**ESSA Act Information from USDE**

Find information about the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The site below offers e-mailed updates and a webinar overview of the law.

<http://www.ed.gov/essa?src=policy>

**Early Learning Matters Newsletter**

The December 2015 issue of Early Learning Matters focuses on the Grow NJ Kids program which assesses strengths and facilitates improvements in NJ childcare and early learning programs. The quarterly newsletter provides news on Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) activities.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/rttt/newsletter/December15.pdf>

**The Arts and Early Childhood Education**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) presents a research review on how the arts affect learning and social-emotional outcomes for children from birth to age eight. The findings reveal benefits and research gaps to be addressed. Read in more detail about the report findings at the website below.

<https://www.arts.gov/news/2015/arts-and-early-childhood-development-focus-new-nea-research>

**Best Devices for Students by Pre-K to 12**

An independent education technologist weighs in on mixed platform solutions for all classroom grade levels. She provides her current thoughts and rationale for suggesting particular devices for use at each grade level, Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/12/08/device-grade-level-106/>

**Periscope Connects Classrooms to the World**

In this article, a technology consultant describes how to use Periscope, a free app, in the classroom to expand students' communication skills with diverse audiences. She discusses related apps and how to utilize them to support a variety of learning activities connecting people both locally and globally.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/periscope-connecting-classrooms-to-world-fran-siracusa-jennifer-williams>

**Responding to Student Feedback**

A teacher discusses his decision to seek student feedback about his teaching practice through surveys and student-led focus groups. The process became a “catalyst for reflecting on and improving practice.” He describes the challenges and positive outcomes related to his decision.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/12/01/hacking-feedback-student-feedback/>

**NJDOE's NJ Family Connection**

The *NJ Family Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for parents, guardian, and community members. Subscribe at the website below and stay apprised about what students are learning and doing in the classroom.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/parents/newsletter/>

**NJDOE's NJ Educator Connection**

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers covering timely and relevant information. Subscribe at the website below and find current and archived issues.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/newsletter/>



### **YOU are the Resource! (top)**

#### **ASCD Education Leadership (EL) Journal**

Editors are seeking manuscripts for the Summer 2016 Online EL Journal with a theme of “Educators as Change Agents.” The focus will be on how educators “spur improvement by advocating policy change, mentor peers, conceive of and implement innovative projects.” Deadline is **March 1, 2016**.

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Upcoming-Themes.aspx>



### **Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students (top)**

#### **Poster Contest on Cyberbullying**

The NJ Office of Homeland Security is running a student poster contest on cyberbullying. Read about contest rules below. Deadline is **January 18, 2016**.

<http://www.cyber.nj.gov/2015-16-nj-kids-safe-online-poster-contest>

#### **Scholarship for Seniors Seeking Forestry Career**

National Wood Flooring Association Education & Research Foundation Wood Studies Scholarship is a \$1,000 nonrenewable scholarship to study forestry. The deadline for application is **February 1, 2016**.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/NOV/17/14330/NWFA%20College%20Scholarship.pdf>

#### **NASA Essay Contest for Grades 5-12**

NASA is sponsoring a contest giving students an opportunity to tell NASA which exploration target is best for the Cassini spacecraft. See details at website below. Deadline is **February 26, 2016**.

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/files/Cassini-SFAD-flyer-2015.pdf>

#### **Be a 2016 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator**

PBS LearningMedia presents the fourth annual Digital Innovators program recognizing educators incorporating digital media in classrooms and serving as leaders in educational technology. Selected applicants will attend the 2016 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators Summit. Deadline is **February 8, 2016**.

[http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/digitalinnovators/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=Innovate2015](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/digitalinnovators/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Innovate2015)

#### **Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Contest**

Samsung invites schools to enter the Solve for Tomorrow challenge to raise interest in STEM through possible award share of up to \$2 million in technology products. The contest ends **May 1, 2016**.

<http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/home.html>



#### ***Before you go....***



How else can we help you? Tell us more at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us)!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our Blast sign-up page at: <http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>



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